

Last revised April 18, 2006.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER TO  
ORDER SETTING INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
IN CIVIL CASES BEFORE JUDGE WILLIAM ALSUP**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this supplemental order is to guide the parties on recurring practical questions that arise prior to trial and to impose certain requirements for the conduct of the case. Counsel must please read this order and follow it.

**SERVICE OF THIS ORDER**

1. For cases originating in this Court, plaintiff(s) must serve this order and the order setting the initial case management conference (along with any other required pleadings) on each defendant. For cases removed from state court, the removing defendant(s) must serve this order and the order setting the initial case management conference (along with any other required pleadings) immediately on each and every party that has previously appeared or that appears within thirty days after removal. Thereafter, any existing party to the action that brings a new party into the action must immediately serve a copy of this order and the order setting the initial case management conference (along with any other required pleadings) on the new party.

**CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

2. The parties will please address the following in their joint case management statement (not to exceed twelve pages) due at least *seven* calendar days before the case management conference:

- (a) The basis for this Court's subject-matter jurisdiction and whether any issue exists regarding personal jurisdiction or venue;
- (b) A brief description of the claims and defenses and a description of any related proceeding, including any administrative proceedings;
- (c) A brief summary of the proceedings to date, including whether there has been full and timely compliance with the initial disclosure requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26;
- (d) A list of all pending motions and their current status;
- (e) A brief description of major motions expected before trial;
- (f) The extent to which new parties are expected to be added or existing parties deleted;
- (g) The extent to which evidentiary, claim-construction or class-certification hearings are anticipated;
- (h) The extent to which the parties have complied with the evidence-preservation requirements of paragraph 4 of this order;
- (i) Any stipulated discovery limits different from the Federal Rules;
- (j) Proposed deadlines and court dates, including a trial date;
- (k) Whether a jury was properly demanded;
- (l) What damages and other relief are sought;
- (m) ADR efforts to date and a specific ADR plan for the case;
- (n) Whether all parties will consent to assignment of the case to a magistrate judge and, if so, whether additional parties are likely to be joined;
- (o) A service list for all counsel that includes telephone and fax numbers; and

(p) To the extent not addressed above, all other items set forth in Local Rule 16-10.

3. Each party shall be represented at the case management conference by counsel (preferably lead counsel) prepared to address all such matters and with authority to enter stipulations and to make admissions.

4. Pursuant to FRCP 26(d), no formal discovery shall be initiated by any party until after the meet-and-confer session required by FRCP 26(f), except by stipulation or prior court order. As soon as a party has notice of this order, however, the party shall take such affirmative steps as are necessary to preserve evidence related to the issues presented by the action, including, without limitation, interdiction of any document-destruction programs and any ongoing erasures of e-mails, voice mails, and other electronically-recorded material.

**ELECTRONIC CASE FILING — LODGING HARD COPIES WITH CHAMBERS**

5. In all “E-Filing” cases, in addition to filing papers electronically, the parties are required to lodge for chambers one paper copy of each document that is filed electronically. These printed copies shall be marked “Chambers Copy — Do Not File” and shall be in an envelop clearly marked with the judge’s name and case number. It shall be delivered to the Clerk’s office no later than noon on the day following the day that the papers were filed electronically. Parties shall *not file* a paper copy of any document with the Clerk’s Office that has already been filed electronically. For the final pretrial conference, please follow *Guidelines for Trial and Final Pretrial Conference In Civil Jury Cases Before the Honorable William Alsup*.

6. Any proposed order other than those routinely submitted in connection with regularly-noticed motions shall be sent by e-mail to “whapo@cand.uscourts.gov” in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format (*never* PDF). **PLEASE** include the case name and number on the “subject” line of the e-mail message. This address should *only* be used for such proposed orders and submissions for discovery conferences.

**SETTING MOTIONS**

7. Counsel need not request a motion hearing date and may notice non-discovery motions for any Thursday (excepting holidays) at 8:00 a.m. Case management and final pretrial conferences will be set by the Court.

**FORM OF SUBMISSIONS**

8. On summary judgment motions, joint statements of undisputed facts are not required but are helpful if completely agreed upon. Please do *not* file separate statements of “undisputed facts.”

9. Reply declarations are disfavored. Opening declarations should set forth all facts on points foreseeably relevant to the relief sought. Reply papers should not raise new points that could have been addressed in the opening.

10. The title of the submission must be sufficient to alert the Court to the relief sought; for example, please do not bury a request for continuance in the body of a memorandum.

11. All submissions filed with the Court shall include on the cover sheet the date and time of the hearing or conference. Counsel should include their facsimile transmission numbers along with their telephone numbers on their papers.

**DISCOVERY**

12. The following paragraphs on discovery provide counsel and the parties with views and guidelines of Judge Alsup so that they can plan accordingly. For good cause, the parties are invited to propose any modifications in their joint case management conference statement. Unless and until modified, however, the following provisions shall supplement the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the local rules.

13. In responding to requests for documents and materials under FRCP 34, all parties shall *affirmatively state* in a written response the full extent to which they will produce materials and shall, promptly after the production, confirm in writing that they have produced *all* such materials so described that are locatable after a diligent search of *all* locations at which such materials might plausibly exist. It is not sufficient to state that “responsive” materials will be or

1 have been produced. Such a response leaves open the distinct possibility that other responsive  
2 materials have not been produced.

3 14. In searching for responsive materials in connection with FRCP 34 requests or for  
4 materials required to be disclosed under FRCP 26(a)(1), parties must search computerized files,  
5 e-mails, voice mails, work files, desk files, calendars and diaries, and any other locations and  
6 sources if materials of the type to be produced might plausibly be expected to be found there.  
7 The Court has found that certain basic information normally learned by counsel anyway should  
8 be made available to the other side at the time of production, as if it were a response to a  
9 standing interrogatory, as follows. At the time of the production, the responding party should  
10 provide a written list to the requesting party setting forth in detail each specific source and  
11 location searched. The list must also identify, by name and position, all persons conducting the  
12 search and their areas of search responsibility. The producing party shall also provide a list  
13 describing the specific source for each produced item as well as for each item withheld on a  
14 ground of privilege, using the unique identifying numbers to specify documents or ranges.  
15 Materials produced in discovery should bear unique identifying control numbers on each page.

16 15. To the maximum extent feasible, all party files and records should be retained  
17 and produced in their original form and sequence including file folders, and the originals should  
18 remain available for inspection by any counsel on reasonable notice.

19 16. Except for good cause, no item shall be received as case-in-chief evidence if the  
20 proponent has failed to produce it in response to a reasonable and proper discovery request  
21 covering the item, regardless of whether any discovery motion was made. A burden or  
22 overbreadth or similar objection shall not be a valid reason for withholding requested materials  
23 actually known to counsel or a party representative responsible for the conduct of the litigation.

24 17. Privilege logs shall be promptly provided and must be sufficiently detailed and  
25 informative to justify the privilege. *See* FRCP 26(b)(5). No generalized claims of privilege or  
26 work-product protection shall be permitted. With respect to each communication for which a  
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28

1 claim of privilege or work product is made, the asserting party must at the time of assertion  
2 identify:

3 (a) all persons making or receiving the privileged or protected  
4 communication;

5 (b) the steps taken to ensure the confidentiality of the communication,  
6 including affirmation that no unauthorized persons have received the  
7 communication;

8 (c) the date of the communication; and

9 (d) the subject matter of the communication.

10 Failure to furnish this information at the time of the assertion will be deemed a waiver of the  
11 privilege or protection. The log should also indicate, as stated above, the location where the  
12 document was found.

13 18. Absent extraordinary circumstances, counsel shall consult in advance with  
14 opposing counsel and unrepresented proposed deponents to schedule depositions at  
15 mutually-convenient times and places. That some counsel may be unavailable shall not,  
16 however, be grounds for deferring or postponing a deposition if another attorney from the same  
17 firm or who represents a party with similar interests to that witness is able to attend. Ordinarily,  
18 if one side desires a prompt deposition, the other side is expected to agree to dates falling within  
19 *thirty days* of the request. On the other hand, rarely should one side expect the other side to  
20 agree to a deposition sooner than *seven days* of the request.

21 19. If any objection to a request for materials is overruled, and if the disputed request  
22 was due and pending at the time of a deposition, the withholding party or counsel must, at the  
23 request of any other party, re-produce all deponents under its control or represented by them for  
24 further deposition examination as to any new materials produced in response that are germane  
25 to that deponent and must bear the expense of doing so. A party objecting to producing  
26 requested materials may not use the existence of its own objections as a basis for postponing  
27 any deposition unless such party promptly meets and confers and then, if failing to reach an  
28 agreement, seeks to bring a prompt motion for a protective order.

20. Counsel and parties shall comply with FRCP 30(d)(1). Deposition objections must be as to privilege or form only. Speaking objections are prohibited. Under no circumstances should any counsel interject, “if you know,” or otherwise coach a deponent. When a privilege is claimed, the witness should nevertheless answer questions relevant to the existence, extent or waiver of the privilege, such as the date of a communication, who made the statement, to whom and in whose presence the statement was made, other persons to whom the contents of the statement have been disclosed, and the general subject matter of the statement. Private conferences between deponents and attorneys in the course of examination, including a line of related questions, are improper and prohibited except for the sole purpose of determining whether a privilege should be asserted.

21. Deponents and their counsel must make a good-faith effort to prepare for depositions and to refresh witness memories on important matters in the suit about which the witness reasonably should be expected to have knowledge. Deponents who claim to lack recollection during their deposition but who later claim at trial to have had their memories refreshed in the interim, may be, among other things, impeached with their previous failures of recollection during their depositions or be subject to preclusion. In preparing deponents, defending counsel shall segregate and retain all materials used to refresh their memories and shall provide them to examining counsel at the outset of the deposition.

22. To the maximum extent feasible, deposition exhibits shall be numbered in a simple manner that will allow the same numbering at trial. In discovery, counsel shall agree on blocks of exhibit numbers to be used by the respective parties. Identical exhibits should not be re-marked, but various versions of the same document, such as copies with hand notes added, should be separately marked if used. *See* Local Rule 30-2(b)(3).

23. FRCP 26(a)(2)(B) requires disclosure of all opinions, bases, reasons and “other information considered” by an expert. Counsel shall preserve all drafts of expert reports (partial or complete) and notes and other evidence of communications with experts (or with any intermediaries between counsel and the experts) on the subject of this actual or potential testimony, and shall instruct their experts and any intermediaries to do likewise. All such

1 materials shall be produced upon expert designation (unless all parties otherwise stipulate in  
2 writing). This requirement does not apply to intermediate drafts prepared solely by the  
3 testifying expert not provided to or discussed with anyone else. Counsel's private notes of  
4 conversations will be treated as work product and need not be produced absent the showing  
5 required by FRCP 26(b)(3).

6 24. With respect to depositions under FRCP 30(b)(6), the fundamental purpose is to  
7 allow a party to notice a deposition by subject matter, thereby requiring the respondent to  
8 designate and to produce one or more organization witnesses knowledgeable on the designated  
9 topic, a useful procedure when the roles of percipient witnesses controlled by an adverse party  
10 are unknown. In some cases, however, counsel routinely appear to notice  
11 Rule 30(b)(6) depositions on numerous and wide-ranging topics, including even the basis for  
12 "contentions" made by adverse parties. To obviate disputes and to give guidance, these  
13 guidelines will be observed:

14 (a) Without a prior order increasing the limit, a party may seek  
15 Rule 30(b)(6) depositions from another party on up to a total of ten subject  
16 matters (for the entire case) described with "reasonable particularity." In framing  
17 the subjects, it is normally improper to ask for Rule 30(b)(6) deponents to testify  
18 concerning the entire basis of a claim or defense. On the other hand, examples of  
19 proper subjects, which would require the respondent to find and to produce  
20 knowledgeable deponents, include "the time line of research and development  
21 leading to the invention in question" or "the efforts undertaken by defendant to  
22 locate documents responsive to plaintiff's document request." The notice should  
23 be directed at discovering percipient facts in the possession of the adverse party,  
24 not at forcing a supposed "fact witness" to appear and defend the entire thesis of a  
25 claim or defense. If a notice includes an overbroad topic, the overbroad topic  
26 shall be unenforceable and may not be later replaced with a proper topic.

27 (b) Each witness-designee deposed for one half-day or more in a  
28 Rule 30(b)(6) deposition shall count as a single deposition for purposes of the



1 deposition limit under FRCP 26 or under any case management order setting a  
2 limit on the number of depositions. A corporate designee may, immediately after  
3 being deposed on the stated subject, be deposed in his or her individual capacity.  
4 Both such sessions shall count together as a single deposition (although they  
5 should be separately transcribed). If two designees, to take another example, are  
6 interrogated, each for one half-day or more, then they count as two depositions.

7 (c) If an organization cannot reasonably locate a witness to testify  
8 based on personal knowledge, there is no requirement under Rule 30(b)(6) for the  
9 organization to “woodshed” or to “educate” an individual to testify on the subject.  
10 If the organization does not produce any such deponent, however, the  
11 organization may not present case-in-chief evidence at trial or on summary  
12 judgment on that topic from any witness it could have so designated.

13 (d) Rule 30(b)(6) testimony never constitutes an irrebuttable judicial  
14 admission. It will normally, however, be evidence admissible against the  
15 organization producing the witness. The jury may, upon request, be instructed on  
16 the significance of the testimony under Rule 30(b)(6).

17 25. If a dispute arises during a deposition and involves either a persistent obstruction  
18 of the deposition or a refusal to answer a material question on a ground other than privilege,  
19 counsel may attempt to arrange a telephone conference with the Court through the courtroom  
20 deputy, Dawn Toland, at 415-522-2020. Any such conference should be attended by the same  
21 court reporter recording the deposition.

22 26. All other requests for discovery relief must first be summarized in a letter no  
23 longer than three pages from the party seeking relief. Up to twelve pages of attachments may be  
24 added. Anything more clogs up the system. Counsel should identify themselves in the signature  
25 block as “counsel for \_\_\_\_\_” and should e-mail their discovery-dispute requests and  
26 responses to “whapo@cand.uscourts.gov,” providing the case name and number in the e-mail’s  
27 subject line. Alternatively, counsel may send their letters via the United States mail. The Court  
28 will then advise the parties concerning whether a response, written motion or a telephone

1 conference will be required. After the telephone conference, counsel should submit their  
2 proposed order (agreed as to form) via the same e-mail address or by United States mail. This  
3 paragraph applies only to cases wherein discovery is being supervised by the district judge rather  
4 than by a magistrate judge or special master. Counsel are still responsible for filing or e-filing  
5 any and all discovery letters.

#### 6 **DISCLOSURES**

7 27. Apart from discovery, Rule 26 requires certain automatic disclosures and requires  
8 them to be made in a timely manner. Under Rule 37(c), untimely-disclosed materials may not be  
9 used at trial or on summary judgment unless the delay in disclosure is “harmless” or unless  
10 “substantial justification” for the delay is shown.

#### 11 **COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAMBERS**

12 28. Please do not send any letters to the Court (except for requests for discovery  
13 conferences, short cover letters for dismissals, orders agreed-upon as to form, or chambers  
14 copies of electronically-filed documents). When corresponding with the Court by letter, always  
15 identify whom you represent. Please do not fax or messenger anything to chambers without  
16 advance permission specific to the item. If you need to messenger a letter to the Court, please  
17 have it taken directly to the Clerk’s Office. If you want the official file to be complete, you must  
18 either take your letter to the Clerk’s Office on the 16th floor and request it to be filed in the  
19 official files, or mail it to the Clerk’s Office for filing, or e-file it if the case is an e-filed case; the  
20 chambers staff is *not* responsible for filing your documents.

21 29. You may contact the courtroom deputy, Dawn Toland (on the 16th floor in the  
22 Clerk’s Office), at 415-522-2020 with appropriate inquiries. Except for the letters described  
23 above, please do not attempt to make contact by telephone or any other *ex parte* means with  
24 chambers staff.

#### 25 **CROSS REFERENCE TO OTHER STANDING ORDERS AND GUIDELINES**

26 30. The Court has separate standing guidelines for preparation for the final pretrial  
27 conference and trial. In securities cases, the Court has a standing order concerning early notice  
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1 to class members. They are always available for review at the website for the United States  
2 District Court for the Northern District of California at [www.cand.uscourts.gov](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov).

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5 Dated: April 18, 2006.

  
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WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE